

County of San Luis Obispo

HEALTH COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, March 13, 2006 (Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Jan Hicks (Acting Chair), Penny Chamousis, Tom Hale, M.D., Pam Heatherington, Sara Horne, David Odell, Susan Warren

Members Absent: Lynn Enns (Chair), Debby Donnelly, James Mase, M.D., Donald Pinkel, M.D.

Staff Present: Jess Montoya, Health Agency Director, Sonja Thompson (recorder)

Speakers: Brenda Ouwerkerk, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, Ann McDowell, MPH, Epidemiologist

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. CALL TO ORDER	Meeting called to order by Acting Chair Hicks for Chair Enns at 6:03 p.m. Jess Montoya, Health Agency Director, represented Dr. Thomas.		
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 6, 2006	Acting Chair Hicks suggested the following corrections to the minutes: 1. Renumber the items accordingly, and 2. Page 4, fourth paragraph, change “The Board of Supervisors voted to close the County Clinical Lab effective January 24 th ” to the sentence: “The Board of Supervisors voted on January 24, 2006 to close the County Clinical Lab effective March 31, 2006.	Minutes approved as amended	1st – Heatherington 2nd –Chamousis Approved – All
3. PUBLIC COMMENT	<p>Eric Greening, Atascadero, talked about the report from the Task Force on Obesity specifically the obesity rates among preschoolers and the significant difference in percentages throughout the county. Rates appear higher in South County and given that preschoolers do not have accumulated life style factors that could contribute to obesity, he is wondering if there were possible exposures to some form of toxin in utero or early infancy. Mr. Greening feels it is definitely worth investigating. He recommended bringing forth the Task Force members on obesity.</p> <p>Mark Phillips, Atascadero, shared a story about Dr. Arpad Pusztai and his research that was significant involving possible adverse health affects caused from genetically engineered foods. The story received a great deal of controversy. He will continue relating the story at the next meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner Heatherington asked if this information has been given to the GMO Task Force. Mark Phillips confirmed that it has.</p> <p>Mark Zelina, Cambria, talked about a report released in October 2005 regarding pregnant rats that ate genetically engineered soybeans and had a 50% higher infant mortality rate than rats that consumed regular soy. Documents provided at the task force meeting that bring forth questions to this technology hopefully will be included in the final report. He suggested expanding public comment at the task force meetings.</p>		

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3. PUBLIC COMMENT CONTINUED	<p>Jesse Arnold, Cambria, followed up on the comment by Mark Zelina and requested the GMO task force follow the 3-minute public speaking format. He read a report submitted for the record titled, “Evolution of Intellectual Property in U.S. Agriculture,” highlighting his strong opinion concerning “The Plant Patent Act of 1930.” Food crops were intentionally excluded from coverage under this law under moral grounds because food was considered too important to human well being to permit monopolization.</p> <p>Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Chamousis appreciates the input the public is expressing and apologized for the misunderstanding of the Brown Act and our rules. As it relates to the public comment section of the GMO Task Force meeting, it was agendized for 5 minutes, however the public comment period did extend for 30 minutes. We will be allowing set times for each member of the public to comment.</p>	<p><i>Handout: Copy of “The Evolution of Intellectual Property in U.S. Agriculture</i></p>	
4. SLO COUNTY AGROTERRORISM PLANNING – STATUS AND UPDATE	<p>Brenda Ouwerkerk, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner reported on the status of Agroterrorism Planning in San Luis Obispo County. California is one largest agricultural production areas in the U.S. and leads the nation in agricultural exports and food imports. San Luis Obispo County ranked #17 overall in 2004 in production. Over 60 first responders attended the March 2nd workshop sponsored by the Agricultural Department. The Ag Department will be the liaison for the agricultural industry and the local Central Coast Agro Terrorism Working Group, with the first meeting to be held April 19th. Future plans are to evaluate and revise the emergency response plans and continue to update contacts and improve communication. For more information, contact Brenda Ouwerkerk at 781-1556.</p> <p>Commissioner question and answer period followed. Commissioner Heatherington asked if there is a task force that would secure the rest of the food supply, and if a storage facility is available if anything were to happen. The Department has the capability to see that quarantines take place. Outreach and education are being provided to local farm centers. Protocols for testing and sampling pesticides when dealing with radiological contamination are in place. Brenda will update Commission in 6 months.</p> <p><u>Public Comment:</u> Mike Zelina, Cambria, requested the task force to investigate the idea of more farmers going organic and reducing the use of pesticides. Ann McDowell addressed the question about testing for agricultural contaminants. The Public Health Department participated in a chemical disaster related drill with the National Guard last year. A global unit was provided and the Civil Support team demonstrated the ability to test and identify chemical and biological contaminants, or unknown substances onsite. Jess Montoya added that the Public Health Department has environmental specialists trained in hazardous material that would respond in an emergency.</p>	<p><i>Handout: Copy of Health Commission Presentation: Agro Terrorism Planning Status Report</i></p> <p><i>Brochure: Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Information</i></p>	

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<p>5. SLO COUNTY PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PLAN – STATUS AND UPDATE</p>	<p>Ann McDowell, Epidemiologist, Public Health Department gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Pandemic Influenza Planning and Preparedness in San Luis Obispo County. She provided a brief background and described the requirements and stages of Pandemic Flu. Current planning includes the announcement by the Federal Government to fund \$7.1 billion for pandemic preparedness. The majority of the funds will be used for vaccine research and to purchase anti-virals. California should receive over \$6 million, of which \$2 million will be allocated to Los Angeles County alone. The local health department responsibilities in San Luis Obispo County are being met. The San Luis Obispo County “Pandemic Influenza Response Plan” was submitted to California Department of Health Services and is undergoing major revisions to incorporate the recently released strategies outlined for Federal and State plans, supplies for vaccine clinics have been purchased, the County Laboratory has been upgraded to Level B Lab, and various planning committees are being assembled. We are going forward with outreach and education and working with community partners.</p> <p><u>Commissioner Comments:</u> Commissioner Odell thanked Ann for the presentation and talked about the Tuberculosis outbreak in the 1920s that went on for many years. People were identified and isolated and those who refused were forcibly detained. The Public Health Department continues to enforce containment for those noncompliant and who pose a threat to the public. The difference between TB and influenza is the ease of spread and the high immediate mortality.</p> <p>Commissioner Heatherington asked if there are plans to spread authority if the majority of the workforce was unavailable. County OES would be engaged in this type of discussion. Discussion ensued on proactive plans for immunization and clinical trials of vaccine development and plans for the homeless population. We continue to improve outreach and education including the vulnerable population.</p> <p><u>Public Comment:</u> Eric Greening asked several questions that included federal government testing birds annually, precautions taken for people who live with poultry, and the ability to shut down transportation. The Federal government is increasing the number of birds being tested, the State has the power to shutdown transportation, and the Health Officer has the ability to shutdown Diablo Canyon. Ann will provide an update to the Health Commission on a quarterly basis.</p>		

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<p>6. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT</p>	<p>Jess Montoya, Health Agency Director presented the Health Officer's Report in Dr. Thomas' absence. A copy of the report is filed with the official record of this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board voted 5-0 to develop the syringe/needle exchange program. This item will return to the Board on March 28th for the implementation plan. The two components include; 1) allow Pharmacists to give up to 10 over the counter syringes to an individual; and 2) how to address used syringes in a safe manner. • The Board voted to approve staff recommendations regarding the Obesity Task Force. • HLC will provide services at all current draw stations by April 1st. • Dr. Pederson reported that the dental equipment for hospitals was ordered. All four hospitals provide dental services under anesthesia for children in need. • Jess provided an overview of the budget that was submitted for review. He spoke specifically of the shortfalls and potential staff reductions in Mental Health, California Children's Services and Drug & Alcohol. Funds for the Mental Health Services Act would create 16 new positions and another 10 positions will be contracted out. • The Public Health/Health Agency reorganization submitted in September 2005 to establish parity was reviewed and modified by Personnel. It is expected to go to Civil Service Commission in March and will be effective July 1, 2006. • Dr. Chasnoff will be in San Luis Obispo County June, 7th – 9th. He would like to provide an update to the Health Commission. A request was made to change the June 12th meeting date to June 7th or June 8th. Commissioners agreed to change and will should submit which date they preferred to Sonja. <p><u>Additional Items:</u> Commissioner Heatherington requested an Ombudsman report be sent to Commissioners as soon as possible.</p>	<p><i>Handouts: Copy of Director's Report</i></p>	

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7. HEALTH COMMISSION UPDATES	<p>No Chair Update</p> <p>Commissioner Hicks: No Update.</p> <p>Commissioner Horne: The GMO task force is moving forward.</p> <p>Commissioner Heatherington: Discussed the letter that she sent to the Planning Commission that was also emailed to commissioners. Letter is in the spirit of looking at general plans with parks and recreation elements and communities that are developing subdivisions. She recommended the topic of how to protect the public health from toxic chemicals come before the Health Commission.</p> <p>Commissioner Warren: Attended the Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board Meeting, budget cuts were discussed. Continued discussion on platform statements and plan to make public announcements on perinatal substance abuse and Dr. Chasnoff's initiative.</p> <p>Commission Chamousis: Attended the Domestic Violence task force meeting. A training is scheduled for May 5th on breaking the silence. The Legislative Committee will review domestic violence legislation. Adult Services Policy Commission presentation was excellent on elderly and financial abuse.</p> <p>Commissioner Odell: Mental Health Board continues to discuss budget issues.</p> <p>Commissioner Hale: Participated with Commissioner Odell in a group that reviewed public health grants, recommendations have been submitted.</p>	<p><i>Handouts:</i> <i>Copy of Commissioner Heatherington's Letter to the Planning Commission</i></p>	
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS	<p>Legislative: Committee met and reviewed pending legislations. Penny will have a written report at the next meeting of the recommended bills requesting Health Commission support. Commissioner Heatherington recommended moving forward on voting as soon as possible.</p> <p>Nominating: Committee met on February 27th and is in process of recruiting for new and alternate commissioners. Commissioner Hicks reviewed the press release that was sent to the media. Deadline is April 14th; selections will be made in May to start in July.</p> <p>Community Education: Committee met and decided the direction for Public Health Week would be Childhood Obesity, looking at physical education opportunities in the schools.</p> <p>Budget: No report.</p>		
9. PROSPECTIVE FUTURE ITEMS	<p>Next meeting will be April 10, 2006</p> <p>April 2006: Public Health Week - Childhood Obesity, Nutrition and Physical Education Program in the School Districts (various speakers), Legislative Committee – <i>Action</i></p> <p>Tri-Care/Veteran's Hospital Care - Mike Piepenberg</p> <p>May 2006: Regional Water Quality Control Board – Follow-up on Ag Water Testing - Harvey Packard (confirmed),</p> <p>Future: General Plan with Park and Recreation with regards to physical activity.</p> <p>Agroterrorism Planning Update (Brenda Ouwerkerk) – September 2006</p> <p>Pandemic Flu Response Plan Update (Ann McDowell) – June, September & December 2006</p>		
10. ADJOURNMENT	Motion to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.		Approved – All